

Application No.: 09/992879

Case No.: 56612US003

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-11, and 13 are pending and under examination. Claims 5, 7, 8, 12, and 14-37, previously withdrawn from consideration, have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to correct an inadvertent grammatical error.

§ 103 Rejection

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-11, and 13 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over the three patent combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,744,295 (Pitt et al.), U.S. Patent No. 5,472,455 (Mehreteab et al.), and U.S. Patent No. 6,319,428 (Michot et al.).

The Examiner notes that the anions and cations described in the instant claims are not known for use in the same compounds nor as antistats. Contrary to the supposition in the Office Action, however, compounds known to be conductive and ionic cannot be assumed to be useful as antistats.

For example, $\text{Li}^+\text{O}_3\text{SCF}_3^-$ is a conductive salt and known to be a useful antistat. $\text{R}_4\text{N}^+\text{F}^-$ is a water soluble, conductive, cationic surfactant. Thus, both Li^+ cations and F^- anions are known to be useful independently in certain ionically conductive or surfactant compositions. According to the line of supposition presented in the Office Action one would therefore expect LiF to be a useful antistat. However, LiF is virtually useless as an antistat; it is virtually insoluble in most common solvents and media. Awareness of separate utility of anions and cations in ionically conductive or surfactant compositions does not predict suitability of their combined use as antistat agents.

Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not conclude from the disclosure of any of the three references, taken either alone or in any combination, that the compounds claimed in the instant claims are effective as antistats. The subject matter of the claims is unobvious.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Application No.: 09/992879Case No.: 56612US003**Conclusion**

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.
Allowance of claims 1-4, 6, 9-11, and 13, as amended, is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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